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thing prettier for a "surround," when the original is beyond one's reach, is hard to imagine, and, low be it whispered, more than one much-admired dancing floor, so perfect as to recall the old days when a floor was all parquetry instead of plain flooring, owes its beauty and dancing qualities alike to well rubbed up linoleum. Other patterns there are to suit every kind of want, some that make one break the tenth Commandment when thinking of one's stairs, worn by one's guests' feet, or those passages in the back premises that nothing will keep tidy. But one cannot lose oneself in the varieties of these really beautiful productions, or even in the mystery of the various mattings, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, etc., that each and all are really too pretty to pass unnoticed; there are stacks of Eastern carpets and rugs to be looked at, from tiny Japanese rugs costing as many cents as some of the lovely Turkey carpets, which are a perfect revelation as to the beauty and richness of Eastern coloring, cost hundreds of dollars. There is one, a large square of royal, if dusky, blue, a brownish red, and a golden tan, that will haunt anyone who sees it for years, so skilfully are the tones blended. In looking over these it is impossible not to be struck by the enormous variety there is in quality and beauty as well as in price, for the wants of all customers are alike considered, and as carefully provided for. After inspecting all the glories of Turkish, Persian, Indian, and many more varieties of Eastern rugs, from the quaint *fin de siècle* Jap mats, redolent of Europeanized (and, it must be added, vitiated) taste, to exquisite old praying rugs from some far-off mosque, the somber brightness of whose coloring is a mystery (till you learn that their first visit on reaching American soil is paid to a skillful carpet-cleaner, who removes the dirt of ages, and in so doing restores their long-lost tints), you are introduced to Brussels, Wilton, Axminster, and at least a dozen other varieties, including the ever-useful Cheviot. It is little short of a revelation to be shown these carpets, and it may as well be confessed that the modern "cutting" system comes badly out of it. It seems that the British manufacturer has been the victim of an American scare, our own makers having introduced in England a cheap copy of the well-known Axminster, at a price utterly beyond the reach of tradesmen dealing with the best materials and skillful workmen. However, the English firms have tried to compete therewith, and have produced something similar. In carpets, as in everything else, if you mean to have a good article you must be prepared to pay a fair price, and really, in these days, it is infinitely better to have the best quality of an inferior make than a cheap version of a first-class material.

Fin de Siecle Furnishings. A Parisian Interior. From *Vogue*.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

AN astonishingly large assortment of novelties in Swiss and Nottingham lace curtains, nets, yard goods and bed sets is being shown in the various drapery establishments.

In white and ivory Irish points many new patterns will be among the fashionable effects for spring.

AN absolutely new thing is Swiss novelty net, which has just arrived, and will surely catch the eye of artistic people. Laces can be had to match the nets, and both laces and nets are shown in white, ivory and ecru.

THE new things in Tambours for spring are shown in a fine grade of yarn on the order used in Brussels curtains, which will surely excite additional interest in these goods.

THE line of muslins is a rarely beautiful collection of tasteful effects. The goods are made on London standard embroidery cloth in radically new ideas. Pin dot muslins are displayed in great abundance, being shown with embroidered borders, woven borders, and also in plain all-over treatments.

THERE is an elegant new line of Brussels lace in thoroughly fashionable and latest patterns. The interest in bed sets has increased, and for the spring a much larger assortment, especially in Irish point bed sets, is shown, and a special line of pillow shams. These sets come in muslin and Irish point.

THE latest idea in floor coverings is called the figured glass carpet, the name being derived from the fact that pieces of variously formed glass are set in a pile fabric in such a way that an elaborate design results. The fabric itself is produced by a system of knitting needles applied in a body to a linen composition. The idea is to make carpet material in which there shall be portions of colored glass. The glass pieces are made in the shape of flowers, leaves, vines, etc., and these are adjusted in proper place by hand. The places are marked by the peculiar formation of the knit texture. A series of needles are so arranged that space is left for the receiving of the different effects. Rather slow and intricate is the operation in its present stage of infancy, but this is to be expected of new things. The parties who have the undertaking in hand claim that the presence of the glass figures prevents excessive wear of the carpet, the pieces being woven so closely together.